

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention provides a method and system for detecting conflicts in policy-based management rule sets. This is achieved by expanding a set of input rules such that each rule relates only to one subject performing one action on a single object, and is known as a singleton rule. Then, data defining the semantic relationships between the different actions is received, and this is used to further expand the singleton rules to give a complete rule set defining every possible rule according to the semantic relationships between rules. This complete set can then be processed to detect conflicts between two or more rules, and any conflicting rules are identified and displayed to a user. Additionally, the invention also provides that the rule sets may be reduced to a canonical form for compact representation thereof.